

In the Claims

1-21 (canceled).

22 (currently amended). A process for the cultivation of cells producing ~~IL-18BP~~
interleukin-18 binding protein (IL-18BP) or the production of IL-18BP comprising:

- a) growing the cells in a cell culture medium that is free of components derived from animal serum, wherein the cell culture medium comprises:

Asparagine at a concentration ranging from about 800 to about 900 mg/L;
Sodium Chloride at a concentration ranging from about 3000 to about 4500 mg/L;
Selenite at a concentration ranging from about 0.005 to about 0.015 mg/L;
Wheat hydrolysate at a concentration ranging from about 5000 to about 15000 mg/L;
and

Insulin at a concentration ranging from about 2.5 to about 6 mg/L; or

- b) cultivating a cell expressing IL-18BP in a cell culture medium that is free of components derived from animal serum, wherein the cell culture medium comprises:

Asparagine at a concentration ranging from about 800 to about 900 mg/L;
Sodium Chloride at a concentration ranging from about 3000 to about 4500 mg/L;
Selenite at a concentration ranging from about 0.005 to about 0.015 mg/L;
Wheat hydrolysate at a concentration ranging from about 5000 to about 15000 mg/L;
and
Insulin at a concentration ranging from about 2.5 to about 6 mg/L.

23 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, further comprising the step of collecting the medium.

24 (previously presented). The process according to claim 23, further comprising isolating the IL-18BP.

25 (previously presented). The process according to claim 24, further comprising formulating the isolated protein with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to obtain a pharmaceutical composition.

26 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the cells are Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells.

27 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the medium further comprises glucose at a concentration ranging from about 500 to about 5500 mg/L.

28 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the medium further comprises amino acids selected from Alanine, Arginine, Aspartic Acid, Cysteine, Glutamic Acid, Glycine, Histidine, Isoleucine, Leucine, Lysine, Methionine, Phenylalanine, Proline, Serine, Tryptophan, Tyrosine, Threonine, and Valine, but no Glutamine.

29 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the medium further comprises Alanine, Arginine, Aspartic Acid, Cysteine, Glutamic Acid, Glycine, Histidine, Isoleucine, Leucine, Lysine, Methionine, Phenylalanine, Proline, Serine, Tryptophan, Tyrosine, Threonine, Valine and Glutamine.

30 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the medium further comprises vitamins selected from Biotin, Pantothenate, Choline chloride, Folic Acid, Myo-Inositol, Niacinamide, Pyridoxine, Riboflavin, Vitamin B12, Thiamine, and Putrescine.

31 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the medium further comprises salts selected from CaCl_2 , KCl , MgCl_2 , Sodium Phosphate, CuCl_2 , and ZnCl_2 .

32 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the medium further comprises a buffer.

33 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, further comprising fatty acids selected from Arachidonic Acid, Linoleic Acid, Oleic Acid, Lauric Acid, or Myristic Acid.

34 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the medium further comprises Cyclodextrin.

35 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the medium further comprises a soy hydrolysate.

36 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the medium further comprises hydrocortisone.

37 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the medium further comprises a protective agent.

38 (previously presented). The process according to claim 22, wherein the medium further comprises pyruvate.

39 (previously presented). The process according to claim 37, wherein the protective agent is Pluronic F68.